Indians returning to Gulf countries

653. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 294 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th July, 1991, and state the number of Indians returned to Gulf countries following the cessation of hostilities there?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): Yes, Sir. According to information available it is estimated that approximately 25,000 Indian nationals have returned to Kuwait. Our nationals who left Iraq have not as yet returned. These were the only two Gulf States from which our nationals had to be evacuated.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE. NEW LEADER OF OPPOSITION

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that I have received a communication from Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy intimating that Shri S. Jaipal Reddy has been elected as the Leader of the Janata Dal in Rajya Sabha. Accordingly I have recognised Shri S. Jaipal Reddy as the Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha in place of Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy with effect from 22nd July, 1991.

[**The Deputy Chairman** in the Chair]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now Papers to be laid on the Table. (*Interruptions*) Papers should be laid. Let the papers be laid please. Order, order Let the papers be laid.

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : यह बड़ी चिंता की बात है कि राजीव गांधी के हत्यारों का पता लगाने वाली कमेटी की ओर से ढिलाई बरती जा रही है। आदमी सेफ कस्टडी से भाग रहे हैं तो ऐसी स्थिति में मंत्री महोदया को इस सदन में आकर कोई वक्तव्य देना चाहिए। (व्यवधान)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Home Minister will make a statement. There will be a statement by the Home Minister at 3-00 p.m. after his visit to that aera.

मंत्री जी तीन बजे वक्तव्य दे रहे हैं इसलिए कृपया यहां मौजूद रहियेगा।

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Notification of Ministry of Home Affairs (Office of the Registrar General of India)

II. Notification of Ministry of Surface Transport (Shipping Wing)

III. Notification of Ministry of Home Affairs.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS. (SHRI M. M. JACOB): I lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 18 of the Census Act, 1948, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Home Affairs (Office of the Registrar General, India) Notification S.O. No. 967(E), dated the 31st December, 1990, publishing the Census Rules, 1990. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-127/91]

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): I lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Surface Transport (Shipping Wing) Notification G.S.R. No. 84(E), dated the 21st February, 1991, publishing the Merchant Shipping (Tonnage Measurement of Ships) Amendment Rules, 1991, [Placed in Library. *See* No. 127/91]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): I lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 18 of the Central Reserve Police